

# Bolly hood

It may only cover a mere three blocks of Main St., from 48th to 51st, but you can blink – a lot – and still not miss this colourful pocket known as the Punjabi Market.

Brilliant sequined sarees sparkle in every storefront, multi-hued skirts and sleeves wave in the breeze on the sale rack-lined sidewalks, and entire boutiques are dedicated to gold and silver.

With one of the highest concentrations of jewelers in Canada – and a culture that knows the importance of accessorizing – it's a great place to stock up. Especially with already low prices, and many shopkeepers willing to bargain, there's more bling to be had for your buck.

**Alshina's (6518 Main St.)** is accessory central with beaded shoulder-dusting chandelier earrings, gold cuff bracelets and chunky necklaces – most in the \$10 to \$20 range. A certain A-lister has dropped in more than once to get her raj on when she's in town. Owner Shiraz won't sell

and tell, but here's a hint: she caused a stir a while back when she wore a little slice of India on the red carpet. Don't see what you're looking for? Ask. There are plenty more gems available than first meets the eye.

If it's arm candy you're after head to **Sultana Jewels (6657 Main St.)**.

But if the wall

of bangles leaves you feeling woozy, simply surrender your wrists to one of the lovely ladies behind the counter and watch her fingers fly as she creates the perfect stack (regulars bring in an outfit to match) just for you. Inside **Mona Cloth House (6642 Main St.)** textile lovers will salivate over bolt after bolt of fabrics, but it's the racks outside that caught our eye. They're bursting with enough sheer cotton embroidered peasant tops to last all summer. Pair basic black or

white with a tank and jeans. Or the less wallflower-like bright orange or green with a bikini and tan at the beach.

**Riwaaz (6647 Main St.)** isn't as packed to the rafters as some other shops on the strip but it's full of fine finds. A rainbow of super soft (30 per cent pashmina) scarves, from buttery yellow to peacock blue, waits inside the door. Starting at just \$12, it's tempting to buy by the half

dozen. But save at least \$20 for a pair of bead-embellished slippers, the hottest shoe peaking out from under pants right now.

And because 'shop 'til you drop' sounds good in theory only, be sure and stop to snack on sinfully good samosas (two for \$1) at **All India Sweets & Restaurant (6505 Main St.)**

—CARLY KRUG



BANGLES, \$22 A STACK AT ALSHINA'S



CLAY BRACELETS, \$15 FOR A SET OF 3 AT ALSHINA'S



GOLD BRACELETS, \$10 TO \$20 AT ALSHINA'S.